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Good Evening. I am Larry Yocum, President of the Hanford, California Chamber of Commerce. As President of the Hanford Chamber, I represent more than 525 businesses that employ more than 15,000 people in the greater Hanford area.

My comments tonight are entitled, "Put A Little Away For A Rainy Day!!!" In our business and professional lives, it is important for us to save a little for a rainy day. This expression means to save something you need for the day you do not have it or need more.

The San Joaquin Valley and Hanford community depends, and I cannot stress enough the word, **DEPENDS, on water to irrigate our agriculture, operate our businesses and live in our homes.**

Think about it for a moment. This very same discussion we are having tonight occurred back in the 1930's. Where would we be today if those individuals had not demonstrated leadership, nor been visionary and planned for today – 1999!

We too, need to demonstrate leadership TODAY for our future. At a time when California's water supply and delivery system has suffered more than 20 years of neglect and decline, the CAL-FED program offers no credible commitment to invest in much-needed facilities to improve our water supply or water quality.

The CAL-FED Water Project must assure there's enough water available to meet all the water and food needs for our people today and more importantly tomorrow!

Because of political pressure, CAL-FED has sidestepped or delayed every decision to develop the new water storage and conveyance facilities that are required just to meet existing water needs – let alone the needs of another 20 million Californians expected in the next 20 years.

Only surface storage can create new water. Your report indicates that somewhere between 0 and 6 million acre-feet of new storage is the maximum amount needed for our future growth or maybe none at all. 20 million new residents are projected to come to California over the next 20 years. An average person uses 300 gallons of water a day – that comes to a total of 6.6 million more acre-feet.

However, it takes 900 gallons of water per day to grow food that the new residents will consume. So, unless we them they come to California, but cannot eat, we will need an additional 20 million-acre feet of dependable water supply to grow food for the new Californians alone – less we forget about any other part of our country or world for that matter.

The challenges that 20 million more people create will not be solved by improving access to existing supplies or by more flexible water supply management. These problems will only be solved if you increase our ability to store excess surface water in wet years and save it for a rainy day!

Thank you for your time and consideration.